

Date: July 15, 2013
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NEWS RELEASE

The Judges of Yolo County have elected their Presiding and Assistant Presiding Judges for 2014 –and unanimously extended the terms of Judges Steven M. Basha and Kathleen M. White for one year. Judge Basha and Judge White have served as Presiding Judge and Assistant Presiding Judge respectively since September of 2012. Their terms, due to end on December 31, 2013, will now end on December 31, 2014.

The Presiding Judge is responsible for the administration of the court in addition to his regular judicial duties in the courtroom. With the assistance of the Court Executive Officer, the Presiding Judge, or “PJ,” leads the court, establishes policies, allocates resources to promote public access to justice, promotes efficiency in court operations and service to the public. In the absence of the PJ, the Assistant Presiding Judge (“APJ”) assumes these responsibilities.

“With continuing statewide budget challenges constraining our operations, the state-funded construction of the new Yolo Courthouse, and the transition into the new Courthouse in early 2015, these are unprecedented times for our Court,” observed Judge Basha. He added that “Judge White and I are very pleased and humbled by the ongoing support from our colleagues. We will continue our focus on ensuring access to the courts despite limited state funding, and working with the bar, the public, public agencies and all court users to continually improve our services. Our task is made easier because of the Court’s extraordinary staff and administration, led by Court Executive Officer Shawn C. Landry, and because of the excellence and dedication of our judicial officers.”

Judge Basha has served as a Superior Court Judge for more than seven years while Judge White has served as a Superior Court Judge for more than ten years. Prior to his appointment as judge, Judge Basha had an extensive career as a lawyer for local governments, culminating with his service as Yolo County Counsel from September 2000 to April 2005. He is currently assigned to the juvenile dependency and juvenile delinquency calendar.

Judge White has been a Superior Court Judge for more than ten years. She served as General Counsel and Court Executive Officer for the Yolo Superior Court prior to her appointment as judge. Her legal career began in Southern California working for a large multinational law firm and then as founder of a commercial and business litigation law firm in Pasadena, representing federal agencies and real estate developers in complex commercial litigation, bankruptcy reorganizations, insolvency and work-outs. She has had criminal, civil and juvenile assignments during her tenure, and currently presides in the family law department.